IDAHO

Introduction

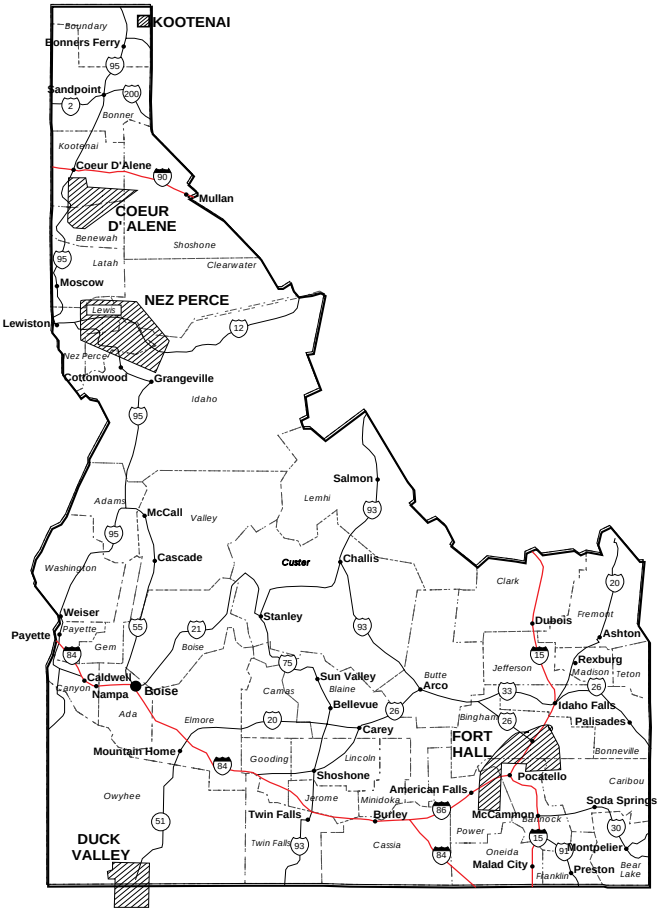
There are currently four Native American Indian Reservations within Idaho's boundaries: the Kootenai Reservation, the Coeur d'Alene Reservation, the Nez Perce Reservation, and the Fort Hall Reservation. The Duck Valley Reservation, a Shoshone-Paiute land base, straddles the Idaho / Nevada border and will be discussed in the section on Nevada.

While the groups which reside on these reservations are culturally and linguistically separate, because of the landscape and resources of the area they share certain traditional subsistence patterns. As a rule, ancestors of the current tribes traveled during the summer and spring seasons collecting foods to prepare, usually through drying, for use during the winter months. All the tribes hunted wild game, fished in the region's bountiful streams and rivers, and collected native plants and roots.

Salmon represented a vital economic and dietary resource for the region's native people; for the Kootenai, however, salmon also held spiritual significance. In fact, the Kootenai people moved from the Columbia Lake region in British Columbia through Kettle Falls in northwest Washington and into Idaho in pursuit of salmon. They were often joined in these fishing expeditions by their neighbors to the south, the Coeur d' Alene. The salmon was also an important resource for the Shoshone-Bannock of the Fort Hall Reservation, as well as for the Nez Perce.

Even more significant to the people of the region was the buffalo, which provided many valuable resources such as a supply of dried meat for winter consumption, warm skins for robes, and hides used in the construction of tee pees. Hunting buffalo was necessarily a communal endeavor requiring the cooperation of different bands and tribes. After the introduction of horses in the 1700s, the people of Idaho would, by the hundreds, ride into Montana to hunt buffalo, often joined by the Spokanes, Kalispels, Colvilles, and the Montana Flathead. After the men killed and marked the animal with their tribal insignia, the women would prepare the meat by cutting it into narrow strips to dry in the sun. The Coeur d'Alene recall that the last great buffalo hunt occurred in 1864, signaling not only a drastic depletion of a traditional food source, but also an end to the ritualized interdependence of northwestern native people.

Native plants also played an important role in the diet of the native people of Idaho. They collected wild herbs and berries, they depending particularly on the native camas root to supplement their diets. After moving from their original land site at the Cataldo Mission, the Coeur d' Alene settled south of the lake at DeSmet, their traditional site for harvesting wild camas bulbs. The camas bulb was also a favorite food of the Shoshone and Bannock people. Anger over the destruction of these bulbs by settlers' pigs and cattle led the Bannock people to declare war on the U.S. Army in 1878.



Lewis and Clark's famous trek across the northwest signaled the beginning of the end of the traditional lifestyle practiced by the region's native people. The Nez Perce people aided Lewis and Clark's party after they crossed the Lolo Pass within the perilous Bitterroot mountains in 1804. Arriving in Nez Perce territory, the explorers were in dire need of basic necessities which the Nez Perce graciously provided. In addition a Lemhi Shoshone woman, Sacajawea, served as the group's guide and translator throughout the journey, from which they returned with magnificent tales of the Pacific Ocean. This historic event initiated the opening of the "Northwest Territory" and was quickly followed by an influx of European fur traders, settlers, and gold-seekers.

Lewis and Clark reported on this vast wilderness, full of fur-bearing animals such as mink, otter, fox, and the coveted beaver, consequently attracting hordes of trappers who quickly depleted the area's resources. The furs of these animals were in great demand on the eastern shores of the United States, as well as in England, Spain, and France. Idaho's Snake River area became a disputed borderland in which British and French trappers, based in Montreal

and the lower Columbia River Valley, competed with U.S. adventurers from Saint Louis. The name "Coeur d' Alene," meaning "sharp pointed hearts" was given to these native people by French fur traders, reflecting the trappers' exasperation at the Coeur d' Alene's resistance to the traders' often uneven bargaining arrangements. By 1840 trapping had almost ended, and the Hudson Bay Company gained control of the region. The Hudson Bay Company, with posts at Fort Hall and Fort Boise, served the thousands of settlers who traveled west over the Oregon and California Trails. Native people of the Fort Hall Reservation recall the senseless slaughter of buffalo, their main food source, by numbers of these passing settlers.

A series of Idaho gold rushes lured many, especially after an important mineral discovery at Pierce in 1860. The discovery of gold on many established reservations caused the U.S. government to force the area's tribes to renegotiate the terms of their treaties. For instance when gold was discovered in the mountains within Coeur d'Alene territory, an 1889 treaty forced the area chiefs to sell all the land around Lake Pend Oreille and up into the mountains, leaving only the southern part of their reservation. Similarly, the unearthing of gold on the Nez Perce Reservation at Orofino in 1855 required the inhabitants to renegotiate their treaty, ultimately forcing a majority of bands to give up their land. While some of Idaho's early gold camps were quickly mined out, a number continued to produce for many years. Important lead-silver discoveries near Hailey in 1880 and in the Coeur d'Alene mines in 1884 permanently established Idaho's mining industry. Idaho became the major lead-silver region of the United States, with production exceeding a value of $4.6 billion in a little more than a century.

Jesuit missionaries arrived shortly within a decade of the first fur traders. Father DeSmet, who was led to the Coeur d' Alene territory by a Flathead guide in 1842, introduced Christianity to many of the Coeur d' Alene tribe. Under the guidance of these missionaries, the Coeur d'Alenes built a mission at Cataldo in 1850. This mission, the oldest building in Idaho, now stands as a state monument and serves as a ceremonial camp site used by contemporary Coeur d' Alene people. The Cataldo Mission was vacated by the Coeur d' Alene in 1878 when an influx of miners forced the Coeur d'Alene to head south, where a new church and school were founded by the missionaries near the lake at DeSmet. Missionaries also achieved a modest number of conversions in the Kootenai territory after arriving in the Kootenai River Valley in the late 1830s.

While all of these factors contributed to the utter disruption of the native population's traditional life-styles, it was perhaps the impact of the notorious Dawes Severalty Act of 1887, which ultimately caused the greatest breach in the communal culture and traditional subsistence methods practiced by these people. While supposedly proposed as a way of encouraging the assimilation of Native Americans into the homesteading way of life, the Dawes Act merely accelerated the takeover of "Indian Territory" by settlers. In response to the forfeiture of tribal lands (many of which were already much smaller reservations than their traditional land base), each tribal member received a land allotment to be owned individually. In the case of the Kootenai, eight thousand acres were set aside in the early 1900s in private 160-acre-parcels. Yet to gain ownership of the land, the Kootenai had to successfully cultivate these plots. As the Kootenai acknowledge, their lack of farming experience and the government's failure to provide the promised infrastructural and instructional support contributed to their ultimate failure at farming. The Kootenai, like many other of Idaho's native people, quickly lost their land to immigrant farmers.

Throughout these dramatic changes, the native people of Idaho did not remain passive victims in the face of their changing conditions. For instance, the Kootenai actively resisted the military's attempts to move them to the Flathead Reservation in Montana for approximately fifty years following the 1855 Council at Hellgate. Under the leadership of Chief Vincent, Coeur d' Alene warriors defeated the U.S. Army led by Colonel Steptoe, a battle which resulted in the death of only seven participants. More tragically, the Army, responding to the theft of some cattle and horses by three Shoshone, mercilessly attacked, killed, and tortured a majority of the Shoshone Band living along the Bear River in 1863. The lands throughout this region bear witness to the many native and non-native people who lost their lives during the fulfillment of the settlers' dreams of "manifest destiny."

Coeur D'Alene Reservation

Federal reservation
Coeur D'Alene
Benewah and Kootenai counties, Idaho

Coeur D'Alene Tribal Council
Plummer, Idaho 83851-9704
(208) 274-3101
Fax: 274-2824

Total area	345,000 acres
Tribally owned	36,370 acres
Allotted	27,730 acres
Other	260,750 acres
High school graduate or higher	65.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	5.2%
Per capita income	$5,766
Total labor force	243
Unemployment rate	17.7%
Total reservation population	5,778

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation encompasses approximately 345,000 acres in the Idaho panhandle, about 40 miles southwest of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Spokane, Washington lies 40 miles to the west. Principal settlements on the reservation include Benewah, DeSmet, Plummer, Tensed, and Worley. Tribally owned lands total about 69,000 acres, interspersed with individually allotted and non-Indian lands. The majority of the land (247,540 acres) within the Coeur d'Alene Reservation is privately owned (247,540 acres). The state of Idaho owns 12,640 acres, mostly in Heyburn State Park, which is situated at the south end of Lake Coeur d'Alene. The U.S. Forest Service owns 570 acres administered by Idaho Panhandle National Forests. The southern portion of Coeur d'Alene Lake is also included within the reservation. The reservation's abundant resources include vast forested mountain areas, pristine lakes, streams, and grass-carpeted valleys. Elevations range from 5,412 feet on Eagle Mountain in the northeast corner of the reservation down to 2,125 feet on Lake Coeur d'Alene.

In 1858, the Coeur d'Alene joined with several other tribes to defeat U.S. forces near Rosalia, Washington. The following year a U.S. expedition defeated the tribes and forced them to accept a treaty in which they ceded large amounts of ancestral land and were consigned to reservations. The reservation was officially established by an Executive Order of 1873.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Coeur d'Alene are a Salishan-speaking tribe which traditionally occupied an area of nearly four million acres. The tribe's original name, "Schee-chu-umsh," means "Discovering Ones." The 1873 Executive Order establishing the reservation reduced the tribe's territory to 598,000 acres. The tribe traditionally hunted buffalo on the Montana plains, fished for salmon at Spokane Falls, and dug for cams and other wild root crops near Kalispel and present day Palouse. Additionally, they relied on the region's vast network of lakes, rivers, and other waterways as a sort of highway system

Under the Homestead Act of 1909, over 80 percent of the reservation passed out of Indian ownership. Specifically, the tribe lost ownership of most of its land along Lake Coeur d'Alene through allotment and the opening of the reservation to non-Indian settlers beginning that year. Moreover, the effects of the Homestead Act were gradual social, cultural, and economic degradation. The loss of a land base resulted in loss of tribal identity through forced acculturation, which in turn opened the door to many social problems. In response to this tragic downward spiral, the tribe filed a claim with the Indian Claims Commission on November 15, 1950 for compensation for the illegal confiscation of their traditional homelands. On May 6, 1958, the Commission awarded the tribe $4,342,778 on behalf of this claim. The tribe has subsequently pursued other claims and litigation, generally successfully. The proceeds from these awards have been applied toward economic development projects such as the gaming facility, which in turn have generated more profits, ultimately to be applied toward the general welfare of tribal members.

Aside from its gaming facility, the tribe operates several other businesses including one of the largest farms in northern Idaho. Additionally, many members live off the reservation and maintain careers as successful professional and business people. The tribe is working to preserve and enhance its traditions through such various means as the tribal language program, instituted to stem the erosion of its use and knowledge. Finally, the tribe exercises influence throughout the Northwest through its membership in organizations like the Upper Columbia United Tribes and the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians.

GOVERNMENT

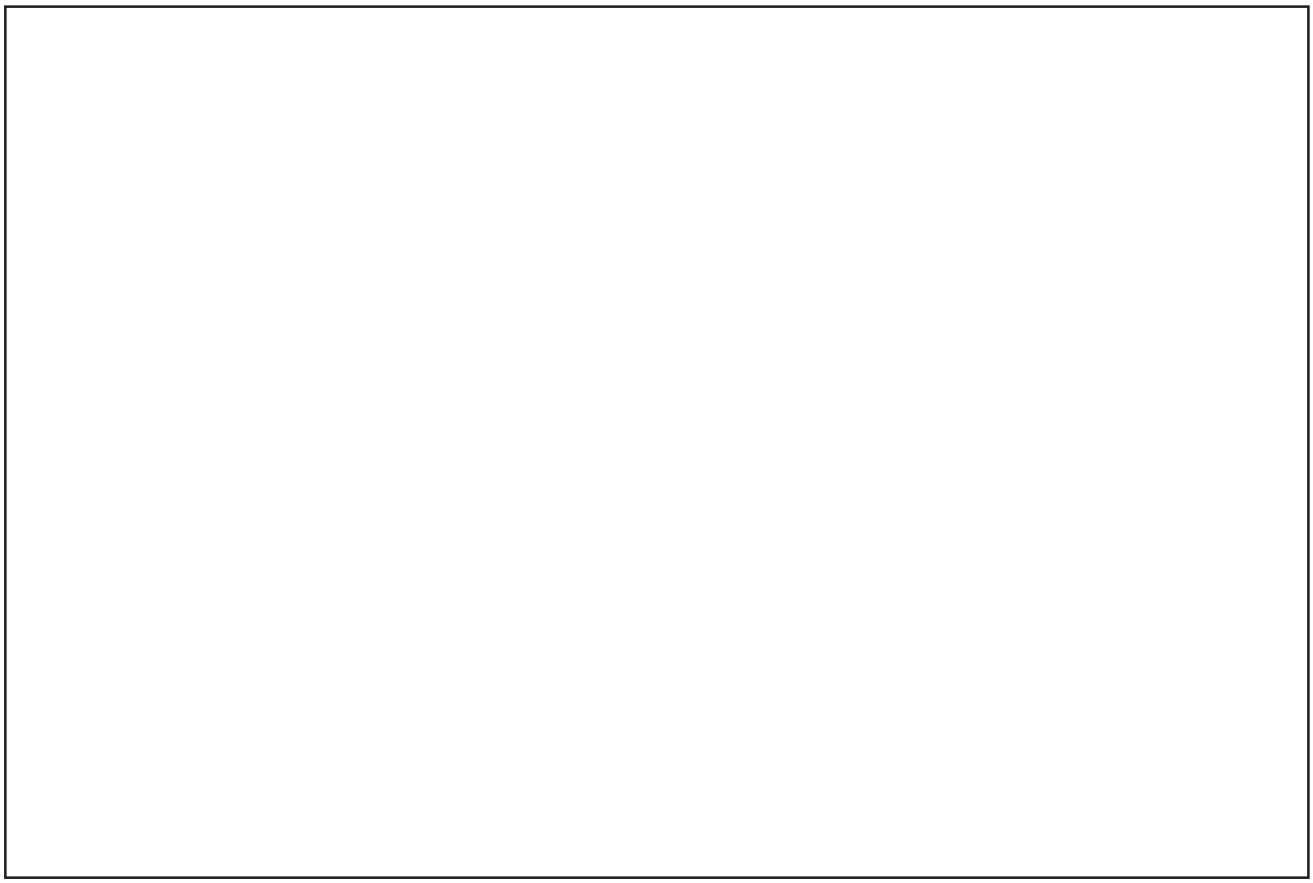
The tribe's governing body is the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Council. The council has been empowered to act on behalf of the tribe under the terms of the revised constitution and bylaws, adopted on November 10, 1984, and approved by the secretary of the interior on December 21 of that year. The Tribal Council consists of seven members, each elected to three-year terms. Its officers include a chairman, vice–chairman, and secretary-treasurer. The tribe maintains a comprehensive plan designed to provide an official statement of growth policies and to serve as a guide to decisions about overall development.

In addition, the Tribal Council enacted an Interim Land Use Ordinance in 1988 which enables the tribe to review and regulate development and land uses which threaten or result in significant social, environmental or economic impact on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Agriculture has been a point of tribal pride and achievement for over a century. The Development Enterprise, established in 1970,



Harvesting Wheat at Coeur D'Alene

operates a 5,000-acre small grains farm. The farm generally employs about seven tribal members and generates significant income for the tribal government. It includes 2,000 acres of winter wheat, 400 acres each of barley and spring wheat, 250 acres of peas, and 220 acres of rapeseed. Plans are afoot to expand this enterprise into a commercial grain handling and brokering business.

CONSTRUCTION

Approximately 160 tribal members are currently employed in various facets of the construction industry. These people primarily work either for themselves or for private contracting businesses in the area, though certain tribal projects, like as the renovation of the traditional ceremonial grounds, employ tribal members on construction crews.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The tribe's primary economic development project its Development Corridor. When complete, the corridor will include the existing bingo hall, a gas station, convenience store, motel, restaurant, RV park, and possibly a golf course, a go-cart track, and facilities for a winter carnival. To this end, the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Development Corporation was established in April of 1983.

The tribe is also a member of the Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation & Development Area. A USDA project, the RC & D program facilitates community involvement in the resolution of environmental and economic problems. To date, over 300 projects have been completed in the area, with the emphasis shifting from traditional conservation practices to extensive involvement in rural economic development.

FISHERIES

The region surrounding the reservation is rich in streams, rivers, and lakes, most of which have excellent recreational fishing. Tribal members continue to fish on and beyond reservation boundaries. Coeur d'Alene Lake is a popular fishing spot, one which the tribe is seeking to regulate and enhance through its Lake Management Policy.

FORESTRY

The reservation lies partially within national forest land in a region where the timber industry has been traditionally prominent. At present, a limited amount of timber harvesting continues on tribal lands, though a considerable number of tribal members find employment through this industry, many through non-Indian timbering enterprises. Pacific Crown Timber Products is the largest private employer of tribal members within this domain. Over 180,000 acres of the reservation are forested.

GAMING

The Coeur d'Alene Tribal Gaming Facility is doing very well, generating considerable tribal revenue and employment. The facility has 27 full-time and 64 part-time employees. It serves as the anchor for the Development Corridor upon which the tribe has staked much of its future economic prosperity.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

As of 1990, 482 tribal members were employed through the various departments of the Coeur d'Alene tribal government, making this the greatest single source of employment on the reservation.

MANUFACTURING

The manufacturing industry is the second largest source of employment amongst tribal members. As of 1990, 424 tribal members were employed in the region's manufacturing sector. Except for the reservation-based cottage industry of traditional artisans, virtually all of these people work for enterprises located off the reservation.

SERVICES

The reservation hosts several businesses, including the Benewah Market, which presently employs about 20 people. The store opened in 1985 and its development costs were fully paid off by 1992. The Benewah Auto Center began with the renovation of an existing Exxon Station into a full-service automotive center. The auto center has recently expanded further into a convenience store and employs four people. The Benewah Medical Clinic, located in a 6,750-square-foot building, opened in 1990 with 12 employees and 850 patients. As of 1994, it had 44 employees and 4,000 patients. It serves Indian and non-Indian clients, some coming from as far away as Spokane. The medical clinic's operating profit in 1992 was $120,000. An expansion into dentistry is well underway and is expected to prove just as successful as the initial undertaking.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

Currently, outdoor enthusiasts enjoy the reservation's abundant fishing, boating, and water sport activities. In the more remote regions to the east, hunters pursue big game such as bear, elk, and deer, as well as waterfowl. Golf, hiking, mountain climbing, and, in the winter, skiing are all quite popular. There are several camping areas on and adjacent to tribal lands; the Coeur d'Alene are considering the feasibility of developing a resort on the reservation.

The historic Catholic Mission and the Sisters' Building, built in 1880, serves as an important cultural and religious gathering place for the Coeur d'Alene.

INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. Highway 95 is the main north-south road through the reservation, connecting with Interstate 90 to the north. The nearest commercial airline service is in Spokane, 40 miles west. Commercial train and bus lines serve the city of Coeur d'Alene, about 25 miles from the reservation. Commercial truck lines serve the reservation directly.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The Washington Power Company provides electricity to the reservation. Children have typically attended either area public schools or a mission school at DeSmet, though the construction of a tribal school is currently underway and is designated a top priority by the tribal government. The tribal government operates a health program and various natural resource programs.

Duck Valley Reservation (See Nevada)

Fort Hall Reservation

Federal reservation
Shoshone and Bannock
Bank, Bingham, Caribou, and Power counties, Idaho

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
P.O. Box 306
Fort Hall, ID 83203
(208) 238-3700
Fax: 237-0797

Total area	544,000 acres
High school graduate or higher	58.8%
Bachelor's degree or higher	2.4%
Per capita income	$4610
Total labor force	1,082
Unemployment rate	26.5%
Total reservation population	5,114
Tribal enrollment	3,593

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Fort Hall Reservation spans approximately 544,000 acres in southeastern Idaho, comprised of two segments which lie just north and west of Pocatello. The reservation extends into four counties, forming the shape of an inverted "L." It has natural boundaries on its north and northwest sides formed by the Snake River, Blackfoot River, and American Falls Reservoir. Topography ranges from relatively lush river valleys to rugged foothills and mountains. Elevations vary from 4,400 feet at the American Falls Reservoir to nearly 9,000 feet in the southern mountain areas.

The reservation was established by Executive Order under the terms of the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868. Another provision of the treaty called for the establishment of a separate Bannock people. Eventually, however, the Fort Hall Reservation was occupied by both the Shoshone and Bannocks. It originally contained 1.8 million acres, an amount which was reduced to 1.2 million acres in 1872 as a result of a survey error. The reservation was eventually further reduced to its present size through subsequent legislation and the allotment process.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

During the years before European contact, the Shoshone-speaking Indians inhabited most of what is now Idaho. During the 18th century, Northern Paiute Indians (now called Bannocks) migrated into southern Idaho from eastern Oregon. Both tribes descend from the Numic family of the Uto-Aztecan linguistic phylum. The tribes generally subsisted as hunters and gatherers, traveling during the spring and summer seasons, collecting foods for use during the winter months. They hunted wild game, fished the region's abundant and bountiful streams and rivers (primarily for salmon), and collected native plants and roots. Buffalo served as the most significant source of food and raw material for the tribes. After the introduction of horses during the 1700s, hundreds of Idaho Indians of various tribal affiliations would ride into Montana on cooperative buffalo hunts. The last great hunt of this type occurred in 1864, signaling the end of a traditional way of life.

The U.S. Government signed two treaties with the Shoshone and Bannock tribes. After the first, the Treaty of Soda Springs, failed to gain ratification, the 1868 Treaty of Fort Bridger was negotiated. This treaty established both the Fort Hall Reservation and the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming. The now-bustling city of Pocatello grew out of a railroad station on the Fort Hall Reservation. Around the turn of the century, the city had grown so dramatically that the tribes were forced to agree to the cession of about 420,000 acres to accommodate it. For this they received approximately $600,000. On June 17, 1902, six thousand settlers took part in the "Day of the Run" landrush which resulted from the agreement. The 1887 Dawes Severalty Act initiated the allotment of the reservation. This process was completed by 1914, with over 347,000 acres having been distributed among 1,863 individual allotments between 1911 and 1913 alone. By the time this process was completed, nearly 36,000 acres had been alienated from Indian ownership through sales, patents in fee, or certificates of competency. The 1934 Indian Reorganization Act stepped in to remedy the excesses of allotment, and as of 1992, 96 percent of the Fort Hall Reservation was once again under Indian control, either through federal trust or ownership by individual tribal members.

During the first half of the 20th century, the tribes' main sources of income were agricultural and livestock activities. After 1947, a major phosphate mining venture was established on the reservation by an outside contractor. This remained a significant source of tribal income and employment on through the late 1980's, when the reserves began to dry up. In the meantime, the tribes had begun to establish a rather diverse economy of shops, industry, and gaming operations, all of which helped push the tribal government's annual operating budget to $13 million by 1991. Today, the major concerns of the Shoshone-Bannock continue to be the health, education, and the dignified employment of their people, as well as the vitality of their customs, language, and natural resources.

GOVERNMENT

The tribes are organized under the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act, and operate under a constitution approved on April 30, 1936. The charter was ratified the following year. The Fort Hall Business Council includes seven members elected by the general membership to two-year terms. The council maintains authority over all normal business procedures, including the development of lands and resources, and all matters of self-government.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

The reservation lies in the heart of Idaho's prime agriculture land; principle crops grown in the area are potatoes, small grain, alfalfa, and cattle. While the major portion of the tribe's nearly 100,000 acres of irrigated land is leased to outside farming interests, the tribe, continues to operate about 2,000 acres on its own. The tribe currently receives about $150 per acre of irrigated farmland that it leases and somewhat less for grazing land. The tribe also maintains a buffalo herd, presently consisting of some 320 head of buffalo, 100 of that number being producing cows. In total, agriculture comprises one of the most significant sources of revenue on the reservation.

CONSTRUCTION

The tribe owns and operates a construction company which employs tribal members primarily. The company, founded during the 1970s, primarily does road work and builds commercial structures on the reservation.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Tribal Enterprise Board, a separate corporation from the Tribal Council, serves as the conduit for tribal commercial development. It coordinates all EDA projects and federal development grant applications. A current project under consideration by the board concerns the construction of a hotel on the reservation, a project that would be carried out by the tribal construction company.

FISHERIES

Although no fisheries exist on the reservation proper, there are several

located just outside the reservation boundaries in the area's numerous natural springs.

FORESTRY
The reservation contains relatively little in the way of forest, none of which is considered commercially viable.

GAMING
The tribe owns and operates a bingo facility just off busy Interstate 15. It features high-stakes bingo four days a week, and can hold up to 1,000 people. The building itself was constructed in 1992 as a multi-purpose facility and thus serves as a venue for other community activities as well.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER
The tribal government remains the most important single source of tribal employment. Over 300 members currently work for the tribe, primarily through BIA contracts and federal grants.

MANUFACTURING
A private, outside company called Food Management Corporation is located on the reservation. Though non-Indian owned, it does employ a significant number of tribal members. The company manufactures phosphate-based products.

MINING
A non-Indian owned phosphate mine which had been operating on the reservation since 1947 closed in 1993 due to diminishing recoverable reserves. This had been a source of significant employment for the tribe, and its closing has had a fairly severe impact.

SERVICES
The tribe maintains a number of businesses on the reservation. Among these are a small cabinet shop, an electrical contracting firm, a trading post, a restaurant, an arts and crafts shop, a credit union, and a gas station/convenience store.

TOURISM AND RECREATION
The tribe operates a commercial complex along Interstate 15 (housing several of the businesses listed under "Services") which serves as the primary tourist draw on the reservation. Additionally, it hosts a number of special events, including the annual festival and rodeo in early August and Fort Bridger Treaty Day in early July. There are also three historical sites of great interest—the Old Fort Hall Monument, The Oregon Trail, and Fort Hall Bottoms.

TRANSPORTATION
The tribe maintains a number of school buses for the transportation of students to schools within the tribal school district.

INFRASTRUCTURE
Interstate 15 crosses the reservation north-south, while Highway 84/86 crosses in an east-west direction. Commercial air service is available at the Pocatello Municipal Airport on the reservation. Commercial bus lines also serve the reservation directly, as does the Union Pacific Railroad and numerous truck lines.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES
Electricity is provided to the reservation by the Idaho Power Company. Natural gas is supplied by the Intermountain Gas Company. The Fort Hall Water and Sewer District supplies the reservation with water, and sewer service in the form of a large lagoon located north of the Fort Hall town site. Outlying residents rely on wells and septic tanks. The Indian Health Service runs a large health clinic at Fort Hall, while there are hospitals in Pocatello and Blackfoot. Students attend schools on the reservation which are operated under the tribal school district. Presently a new high school is being completed. Finally, the tribe maintains a Human Resource Center, a Tribal Business Center, and a Multipurpose Center for various tribal activities and meetings.

Kootenai Reservation

Federal reservation
Kootenai
Boundary County, Idaho

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho
County Road 38A
P.O. Box 1269
Bonners Ferry, ID 83805
(208) 267-3519
Fax: 267-2962

Total area	250 acres
Allotted	2,000 acres
Federal Trust	250 acres
High school graduate of higher	73.2%
Per capita income	$4,992
Total labor force	36
Unemployment rate	8.3%
Total reservation population	101
Tribal enrollment	130

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS
The Kootenai Reservation is located in the northern tip of the Idaho panhandle, about 30 miles from the Canadian border. The reservation has 250 acres in federal trust, with approximately 2,000 additional acres allotted to individual tribal members.

The Kootenai refused to participate in the 1855 Hellgate Council called by Washington Territorial Governor Isaac Stevens. Throughout the next decade, the tribe resisted all attempts to move it to the Flathead Reservation in Montana. In the early 1900s, the federal government finally set aside 8,000 acres for the Kootenai, with each recognized tribal member receiving a plot of 160 acres. Having little experience with farming, however, most tribal members failed to cultivate the land, and the majority of it was eventually leased to white settlers. Today, the Kootenai still have a very small community land base, consisting of little more than the tract upon which their tribal headquarters, community center, and a tribal housing project are situated.

CULTURE AND HISTORY
The Kootenai of North Idaho are one of six bands of the greater Kootenai Nation. Aside from the Idaho band, the Kootenai may be found in British Columbia and northwestern Montana. The Kootenai traditionally relied on the region's rivers, lakes, prairies, and mountain forests for their sustenance, and followed the salmon cycle as much as any other source of food. Salmon was also used for trade and held great spiritual significance for the tribe. Fur traders were the first Euro-Americans to appear on Kootenai lands, arriving in the 1830s. Within a decade, Jesuit missionaries began arriving, and shortly thereafter, homesteaders began to appear, crossing through or settling on Kootenai lands. The ambitious Washington territorial governor, Isaac Stevens, was determined to open the northwest to the railroad and agricultural development. This ambition spurred him to call for the 1855 Council at Hellgate,

Montana. At the council, Stevens offered reserved lands and protection from further encroachment to the various bands of Salish and Kootenai in attendance. Several of the bands agreed and were placed on the Flathead Reservation, but the Idaho Kootenai had refused to even participate in or attend the council.

After losing its land to allotment, the tribe was dealt a further series of blows. First, in 1930 the Grand Coulee Dam was constructed, destroying the salmon runs upon which the tribe had depended for centuries. Then, in the 1940s, non-Indian landowners refused to allow the tribe to work its traditional fishing areas along the Kootenai River. The third strike came later in that decade when the Idaho Department of Fish and Game forbade the Kootenai to hunt in their traditional areas. This decision was revised three decades later when in 1976 the Idaho Supreme Court ruled that the Hellgate Treaty of 1855 guaranteed the tribe's hunting rights on state and federal lands. In 1947 the tribe set up its own government, though they had essentially no land base. After decades of frustration in 1974 the tribe declared war on the U.S. government in an attempt to and force the BIA to live up to its trust responsibilities provide a reservation. Tribal members turned the road through the minuscule reservation into a toll road, charging vehicles ten cents each, and demanded that the U.S. enter negotiations with them. Hostilities ceased when the tribe received assurances that negotiations would be forthcoming. Today the tribe is actively engaged in preserving its traditions and heritage which have been so integral to its survival. Elders continue to speak the native language, with some informal teaching of it to the young people. In summation, the Kootenai remain a small, tenacious band which continues to hold fast to its sovereignty and pursue its goal of expanding its land base.

GOVERNMENT

The Kootenai ratified their constitution on July 16, 1942, and established a tribal government in 1947. Both are structured according to the provisions of the 1934 Indian Reorganization Act. The five-member Tribal Council consists of a chief (elected for life), and a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer, all elected to staggered three-year terms. The general membership meets annually, while the Tribal Council meets weekly or as needed. The tribal government oversees health, housing, job training, and education programs for the Kootenai people. Additionally, the tribe maintains its own court system.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

Most of the 250 acres of tribal lands are under agricultural use, primarily in wheat and barley cultivation. Additionally, a number of individual tribal members lease land to outside agricultural interests. The tribe realizes approximately $20,000 annually from agriculture.

CONSTRUCTION

A number of tribal members find employment through the construction industry. The tribal government has successfully created construction jobs for its members through development projects like the Kootenai River Inn.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho are members of the Panhandle Lakes Resource Conservation & Development Area. A USDA project, the RC & D program facilitates community involvement in the resolution of environmental and economic problems. To date, over 300 projects have been completed in the area, with the emphasis shifting from traditional conservation practices to extensive involvement in rural economic development.

FISHERIES

The tribe is co-managing a project designed to repopulate the Kootenai River with sturgeon (another fish of spiritual significance to the tribe). The Idaho Fish and Game Commission currently employs about six tribal members and six non-Indians on this project.

FORESTRY

There is a fair amount of forested acreage on tribally affiliated land, though very little is presently under commercial development.

GAMING

The tribe's show piece, the Kootenai River Inn, takes advantage of the tribe's Class II and III gaming compact with the state by featuring slot machines, video poker, and other forms of gaming. They have plans for adding 100 additional gaming machines in the near future. Though still quite new, the Inn has already generated considerable tribal revenues, employing 60 people. Of these 60, only about a half-dozen are currently tribal members due to the tribe's small size and workforce.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

The tribal government remains the largest source of tribal employment at this time. It employs approximately 30 of its members through its departments of air and water, land acquisition, the clinic, and in other capacities.

MANUFACTURING

There are currently plans for a cogeneration power plant on tribal lands. This facility would generate electric power through the burning of various non-toxic wastes. Additionally, the tribe is negotiating with the state of Idaho to have a tax plan approved that would attract industry to the reservation.

SERVICES

The Kootenai River Inn is not only a gaming facility, but also a Best Western Motel franchise which includes the Springs Restaurant and the Eagle Springs Gift Shop on its premises. The resort is situated on the scenic Kootenai River in Bonners Ferry and does a thriving, though largely seasonal, business.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

The Bonners Ferry region is extremely popular with outdoors enthusiasts year round, featuring excellent hiking, boating, fishing, swimming, skiing, snowmobiling, mountain climbing, and more.

TRANSPORTATION

The tribe owns a van for the transportation needs of its elderly members. Service is available 24 hours a day.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The primary road access to the reservation is provided by Highways 95 (running north-south) and 2 (east-west). The nearest commercial air service may be found at the Coeur D'Alene municipal airport, 90 miles away, and at the Spokane International Airport, about 120 miles distant. Additionally, there is a small private airport in Bonners Ferry. Commercial truck, bus, and rail freight lines serve Bonners Ferry, while Amtrak passenger rail service is available 30 miles south of the reservation.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The tribe maintains a community center at its tribal headquarters, three miles west of Bonners Ferry. The Northern Lights Power Company provides electricity to the area. Water is furnished through the Bonners Ferry municipal system, while sewer service is provided through the reservation's lagoon and by individual septic tanks. AT&T provides local telephone service. The tribe maintains its own health clinic at the tribal headquarters, while more serious

problems are referred to hospitals in Coeur D'Alene. Students attend the local public school system.

Nez Perce Reservation

Federal reservation
Nez Perce
Nez Perce, Clearwater, Idaho, Latah, and Lewis counties, Idaho

Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho
P.O. Box 305
Lapwai, Idaho
(208) 843-2253
Fax: 843-7354

Total area	750,000 acres
Tribally owned	85,248
Allotted	48,298 acres
Federal trust	36,950 acres
Non-Indian	664,752 acres
Per capita income	$6,102
High school graduate or higher	70.6%
Bachelor's degree or higher education	07.1%
Total labor force	743
Unemployment rate	26.1%
On-reservation Indian population	1,595
Total reservation population	16,159
Tribal enrollment	3,000

LOCATION AND LAND STATUS

The Nez Perce Reservation covers approximately 750,000 acres in north-central Idaho and encompasses five counties. Several small towns are located within the boundaries of the reservation; Lapwai, on the reservation's western edge, serves as the tribal headquarters and is home to the largest population of tribal members. Kamiah, on the reservation's eastern boundary, contains the second highest concentration of tribal members and provides social services through the Wa A'Yas Community Building. Other towns within the reservation, including Orofino, Kooskia, and Craigmont, are predominantly non-Indian.

The Treaty of June 11, 1855 established a reservation of some 7.5 million acres. However, the United States reduced the size of the Nez Perce Reservation to 750,000 acres in 1863 after the discovery of gold in the region. Today about twelve per cent of the land within the reservation is owned by the Nez Perce Tribe or tribal members.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Nez Perce are a Sehaptian speaking tribe linked culturally and linguistically to other Northwestern tribes including the Yakama, Umatilla, Klickitat, and Wallawalla. The name "Nez Perce" (French for "pierced nose") was given to the tribe by the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805; that the expedition applied this term to the tribe is curious as they did not traditionally practice nose piercing. The Nez Perce call themselves "Ni Mii Pu" meaning literally "The People."

Prior to the mid-19th century, the Nez Perce roamed throughout the vast Columbia Basin practicing a subsistence pattern based on hunting, gathering, and fishing. The arrival of the horse during the early 18th century, substantially increased the tribe's mobility and allowed parties to venture eastward onto the Great Plains to hunt buffalo.

Contact with the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805 precipitated an era of increasing contact with Euro-Americans. During the early 19th century, the Nez Perce were drawn into the economic orbit of British and American fur trade companies operating in the Northwest. An influx of settlers in the mid-19th century touched off fighting between the United States Army and numerous Northwestern tribes, including the Nez Perce. The Nez Perce signed a treaty on June 11, 1855 which ceded several million acres to the United States and set aside 7.5 million acres for the tribe as a reservation. A second treaty signed in 1863 reduced the reservation's size to 750,000 acres. Several Nez Perce bands refused to sign this treaty, most notably Chief Joseph's Wallowa Valley band. Another treaty in 1868, in tandem with the Dawes Severalty Act of 1887, led to the allotment of the entire reservation and the eventual loss of most tribal lands to non-Indians.

As with many other tribes, the Nez Perce have experienced a cultural renaissance during the past half century. A revival of traditional arts and crafts, dance, and religion has been ongoing since the 1940s. Today, the Nez Perce are involved in writing their own history and reviving the Nez Perce language. The tribe participates in the operation of the Nez Perce Cultural Museum at Spalding, Idaho where Nez Perce artisans sell cornhusk weaving, jewelry, and other crafts.

The tribe currently operates several tribally owned businesses including a tribal store, Nez Perce Limestone Enterprise, and Nez Perce Forest Products Enterprise. The Nez Perce Tribe is also involved in ongoing negotiations over Snake River water rights to guarantee the future appropriation of water for on-reservation agriculture.

GOVERNMENT

The Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee, a nine member body elected at large, manages economic development, tribal social service programs, natural resources, and tribal investments. Committee members serve three-year terms with elections occurring annually.

The tribe rejected the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. The current constitution and bylaws were adopted on April 2, 1948.

ECONOMY

AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK

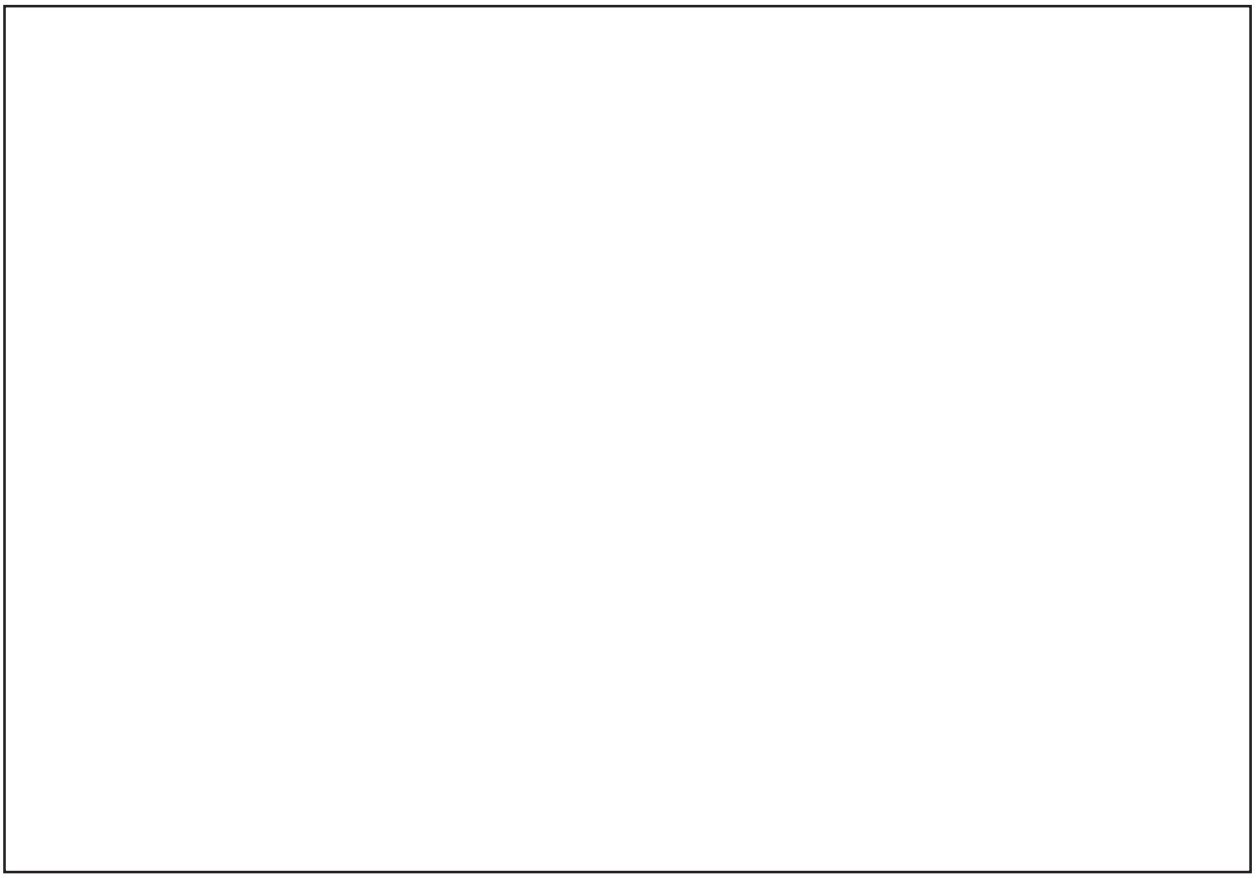
The tribe cultivates 37,639 acres of reservation land; wheat is the major crop. Other crops include barley, dry peas, lentils, canola, bluegrass seed, alfalfa, and hay. The tribe also raises some cattle and has an active program to revive the Appaloosa horse breed.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Nez Perce Express I and II are tribally owned convenience / grocery stores which the tribe plans to expand into larger commercial centers. The Aht'Way Commercial Plaza is currently under construction near Lewiston, Idaho. The tribe is also considering a proposal to establish a PET plastics recycling plant on or near the reservation.

FORESTRY

The Nez Perce Forest Resource Management Program manages 40,203 acres of tribally owned timber land, harvesting approximately 7,000 MBF annually on a sustained-yield basis. The forest is primarily composed of mixed conifers. The Nez Perce



Clearwater River

Forest Products Enterprise conducts harvesting, marketing, and replanting of tribally owned timber.

GAMING

The Nez Perce Tribe is currently exploring the feasibility of gaming facilities on the reservation.

GOVERNMENT AS EMPLOYER

The tribe employs 227 persons. Among the federally administered programs on the reservation are the Indian Health Service, employing 23 persons; the Nez Perce National Park, employing 22 persons; and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, employing 51 persons.

MINING

Nez Perce Limestone Enterprise wholesales agricultural limestone and pulp lime to local fertilizer and chemical companies. The tribe currently has a mining plan to improve efficiency at the Mission Creek quarry, a high quality limestone deposit on the reservation.

TOURISM AND RECREATION

The tribe hopes to expand its involvement in the local tourism and recreation market. Currently the Nez Perce National Park, partially located on tribal land, attracts over 36,000 visitors annually. The tribe is presently developing a brochure which will present tribal stories about rock formations on the Snake, Clearwater, and Columbia rivers to tourists and will serve as a reservation road map for visitors. The tribe also plans to open an RV park, grocery, and motel as part of the Aht'Way Commercial Plaza project.

The Nez Perce Reservation lies in the proximity of several outdoor recreational areas including Hell's Canyon, Clearwater River, Clearwater National Forest, and the Nez Perce National Forest. Five Idaho state parks are also located near the reservation.

TRANSPORTATION

The Nez Perce Limestone Enterprise utilizes tribally owned trucks and contracted haulers.

INFRASTRUCTURE

U.S. Highways 12 and 95 run through the reservation. Commercial airlines serve Lewiston Airport, located in Lewiston, Idaho (10 miles east of the reservation). Several truck lines service the area via Lewiston including United Parcel Service, Pony Express, Federal Express, Quick Delivery, Broadway Package Service, and Viking. Camas Prairie, Union Pacific, and Burlington Northern railway services are available in Lewiston. Several freight barge companies operate out of the Port of Lewiston, including Lewiston Tidewater Barge Lines, Brix Maritime, and Gem Chip Trading Company.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community centers are located in Lapwai and Kamiah. Electricity is provided to the reservation by Washington Water Power and Clearwater Power. Natural gas service is available through Washington Water Power. Groundwater wells provide water to the reservation. The reservation is served by U.S. West Communications and Northwest Communications.

The Indian Health Service operates clinics in Lapwai and Kamiah. Health care is also available at St. Joseph's and Tri-State Hospitals in Lewiston. In addition, there are five public schools, a tribal Head Start program, and the Nez Perce Tribal Employment and Training Department on the reservation.